

Tropical Storm Gordon (1994): A Destructive Mind Of Its Own

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Gordon Stats

- Affected Florida November 13-20, 1994.
- First landfall at Key West on 11/15, second landfall near Fort Myers on 11/16, third landfall near Cape Canaveral on 11/20.
- Spawned 6 tornadoes.
- 11 deaths and 43 injuries.
- Total damage estimated at over \$300 million, mostly to agriculture in South Florida.
- Power out to 425,000 customers.

Gordon Intensity

- Peak intensity over Florida: **45 knots**
(50 mph)
- Intensified off Cape Canaveral and reached Category 1 (70 knots) intensity south of Cape Hatteras.
- Weakened to tropical depression at third landfall near Cape Canaveral two days later.

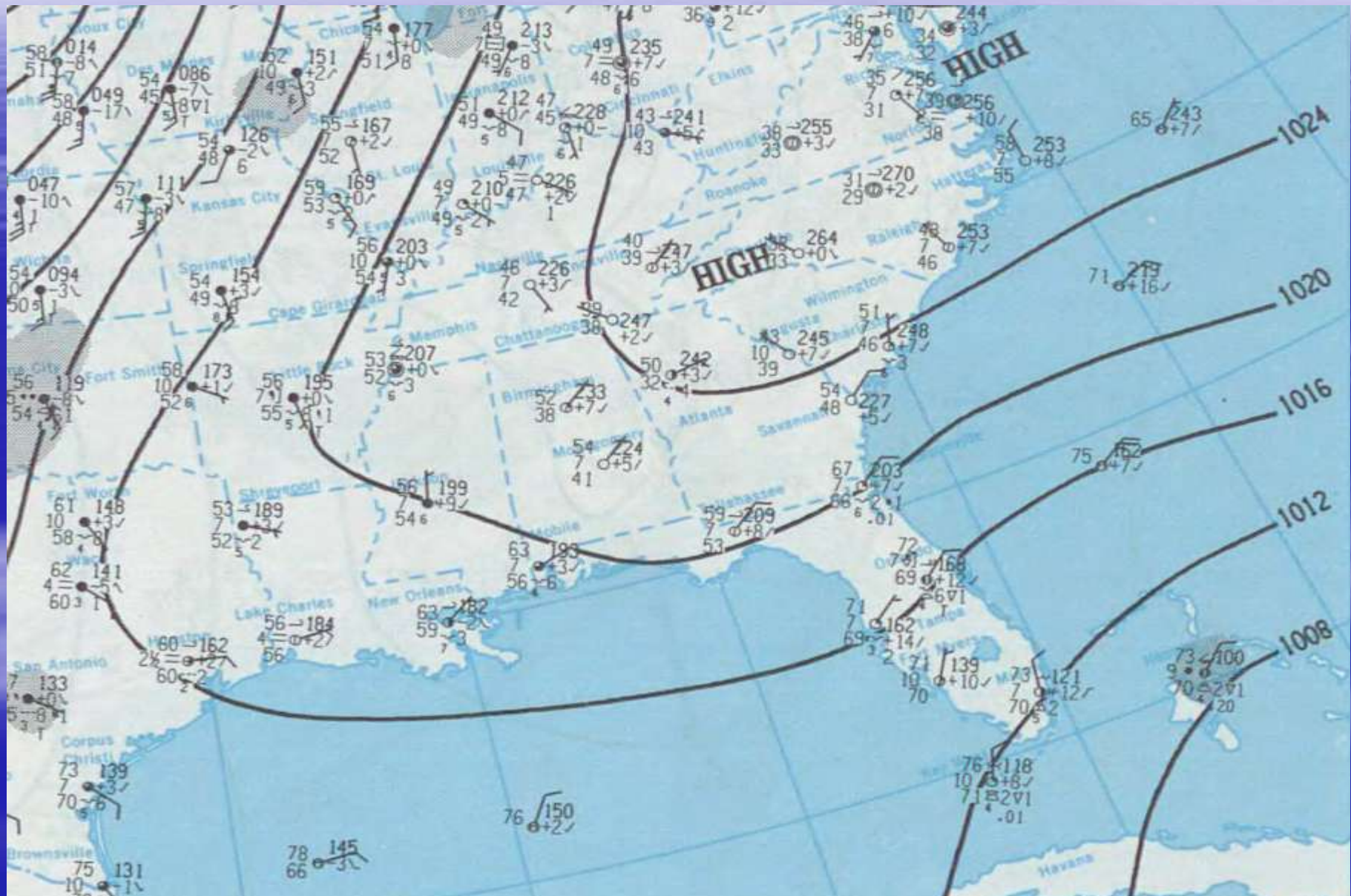




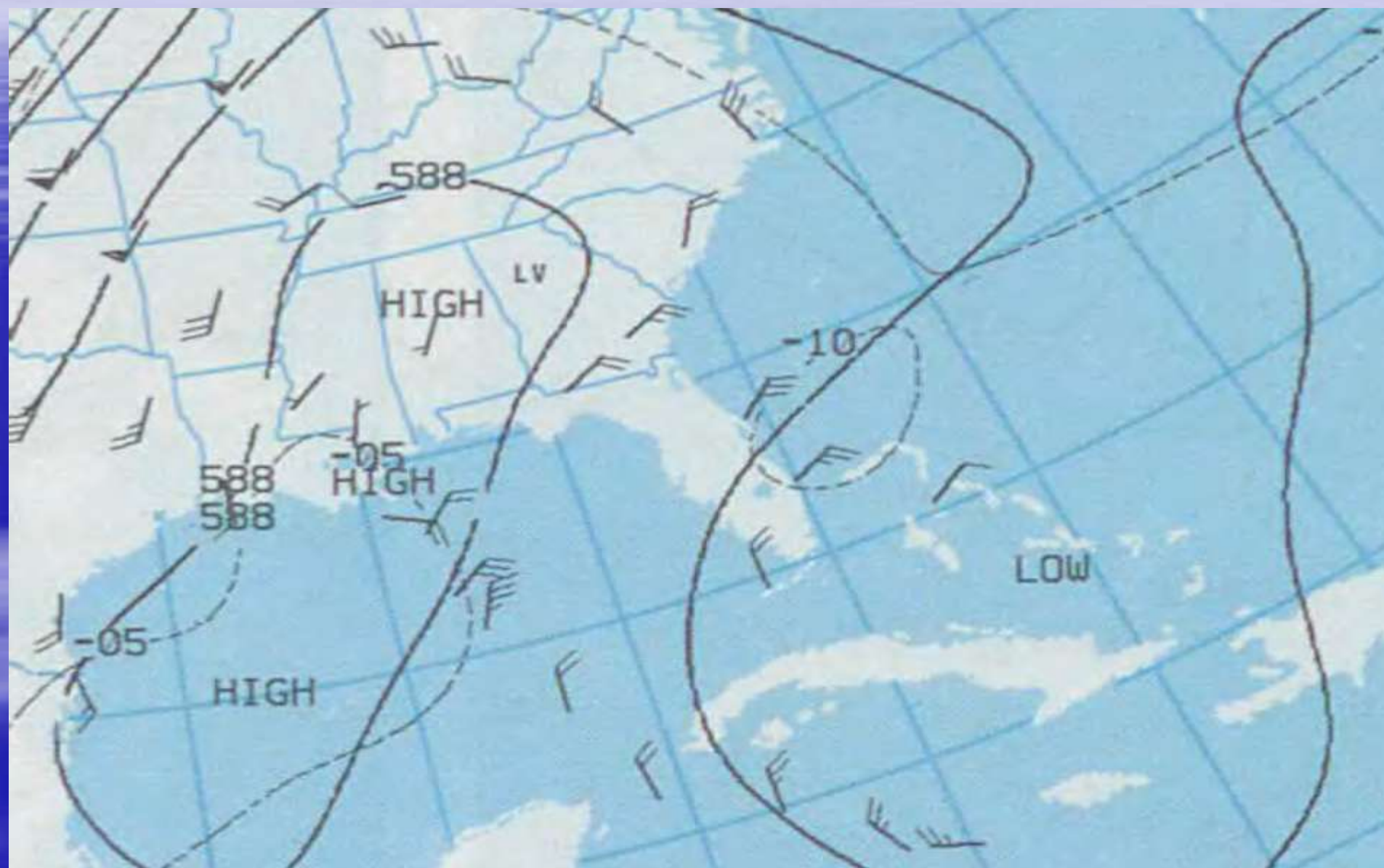
More Gordon Facts

- NHC track errors averaged about 20-30% greater than previous 10-year average.
- Generally underestimated intensity due to hybrid nature of system.

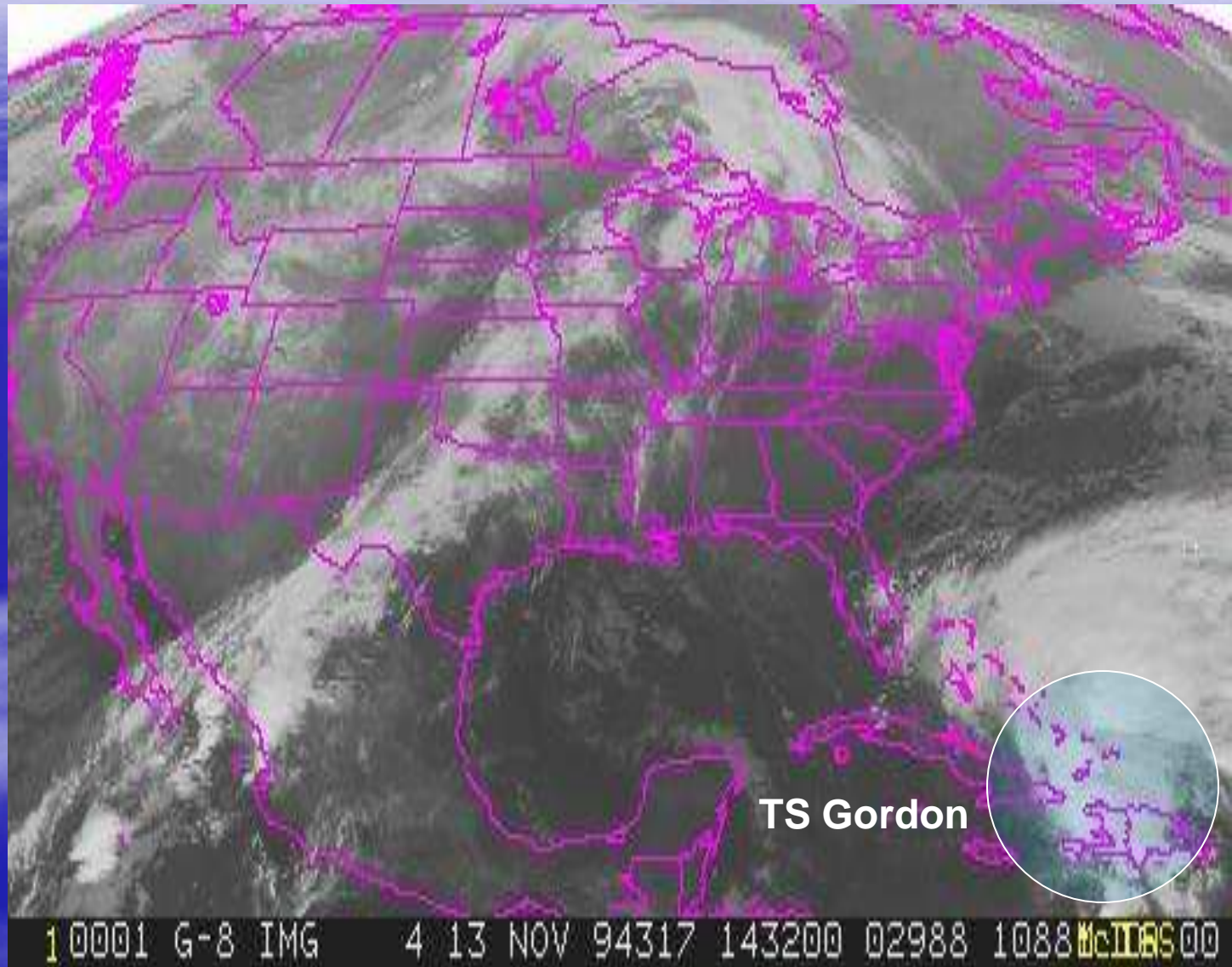
Surface Weather Map: November 13th, 1994



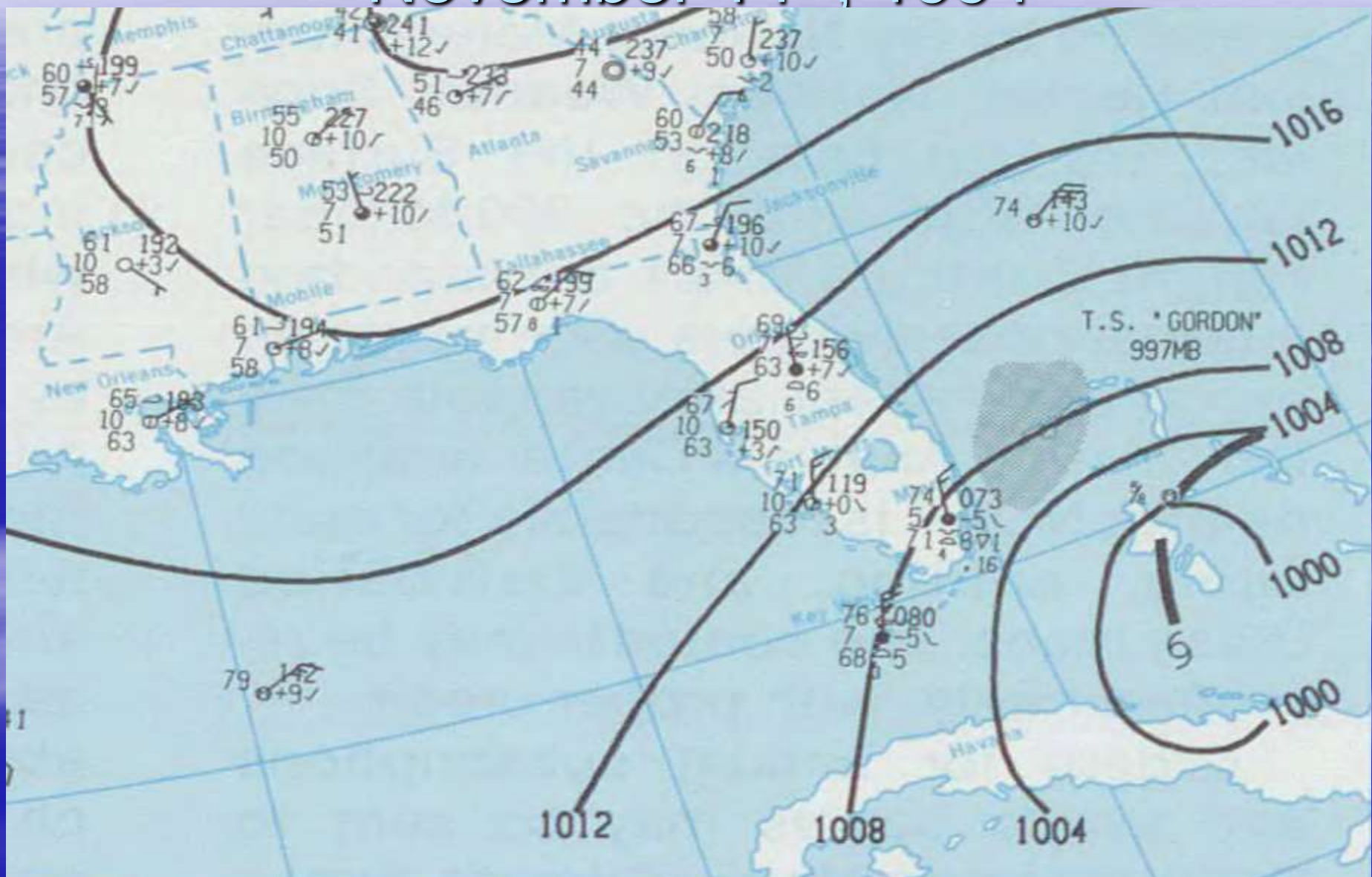
500 Millibar map: November 13th, 1994



Satellite Image: November 13th, 1994



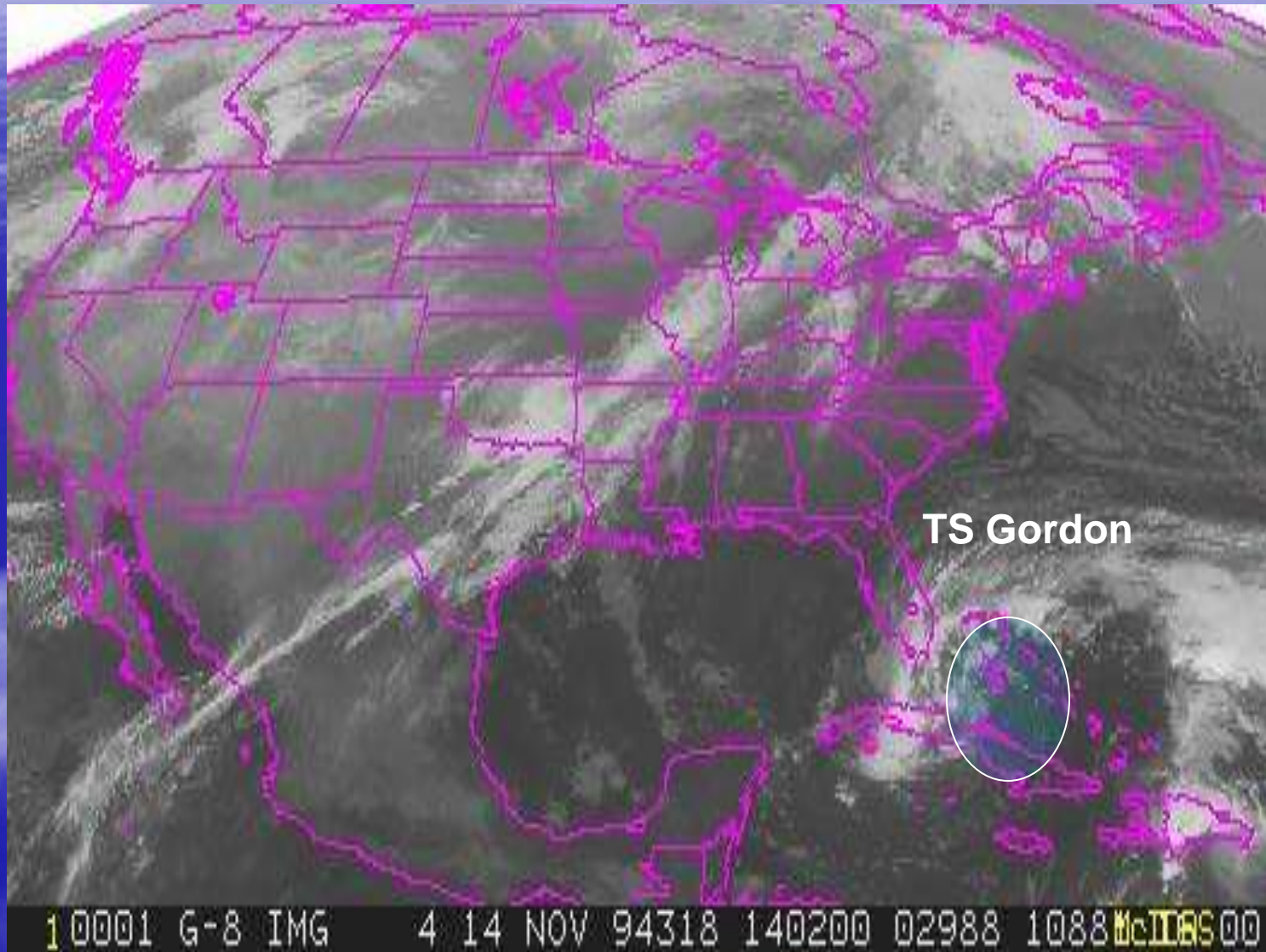
Surface Weather Map: November 14th, 1994



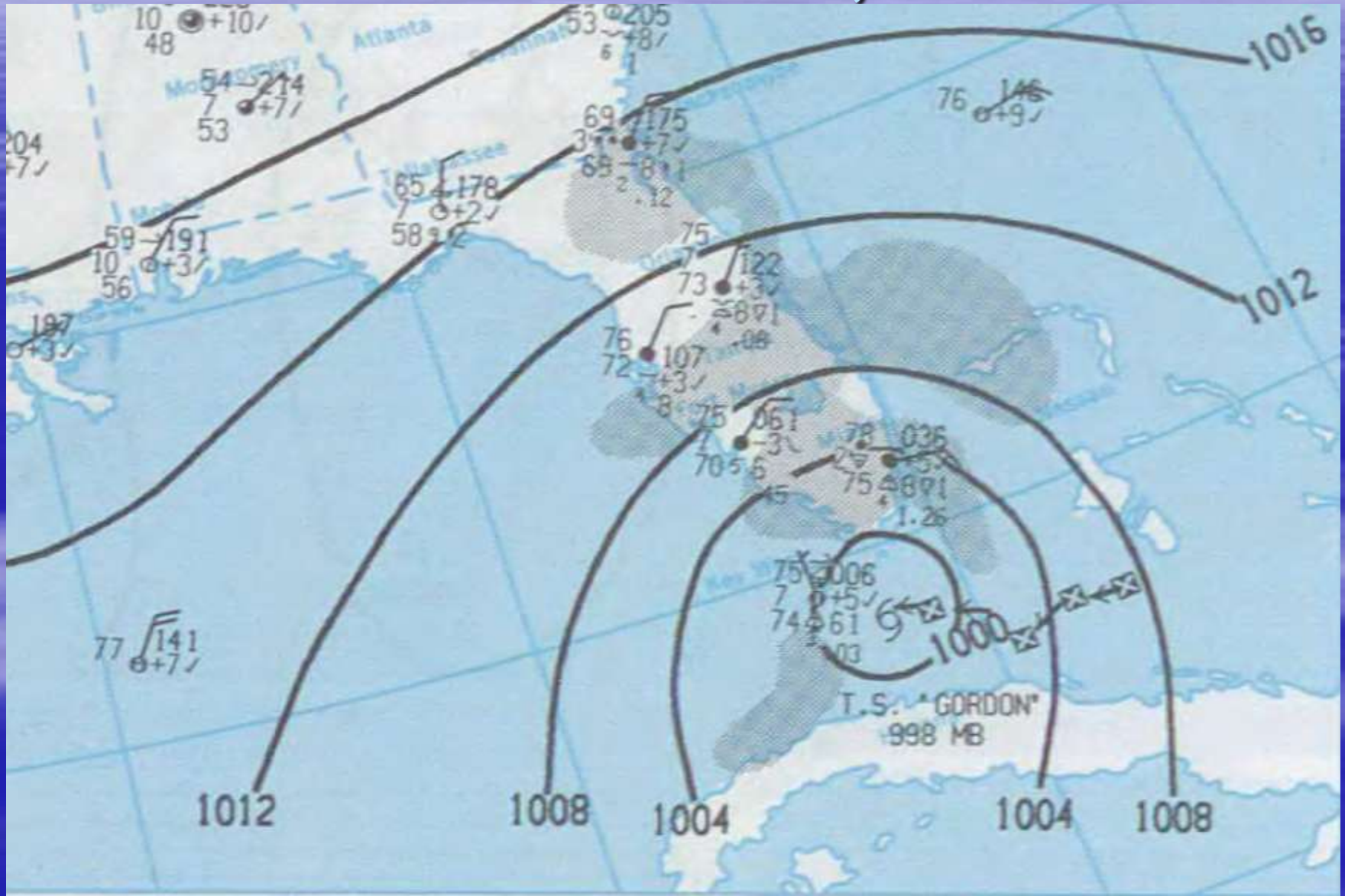
500 Millibar Map: November 14th, 1994



Satellite Image: November 14th, 1994



Surface Weather Map: November 15th, 1994



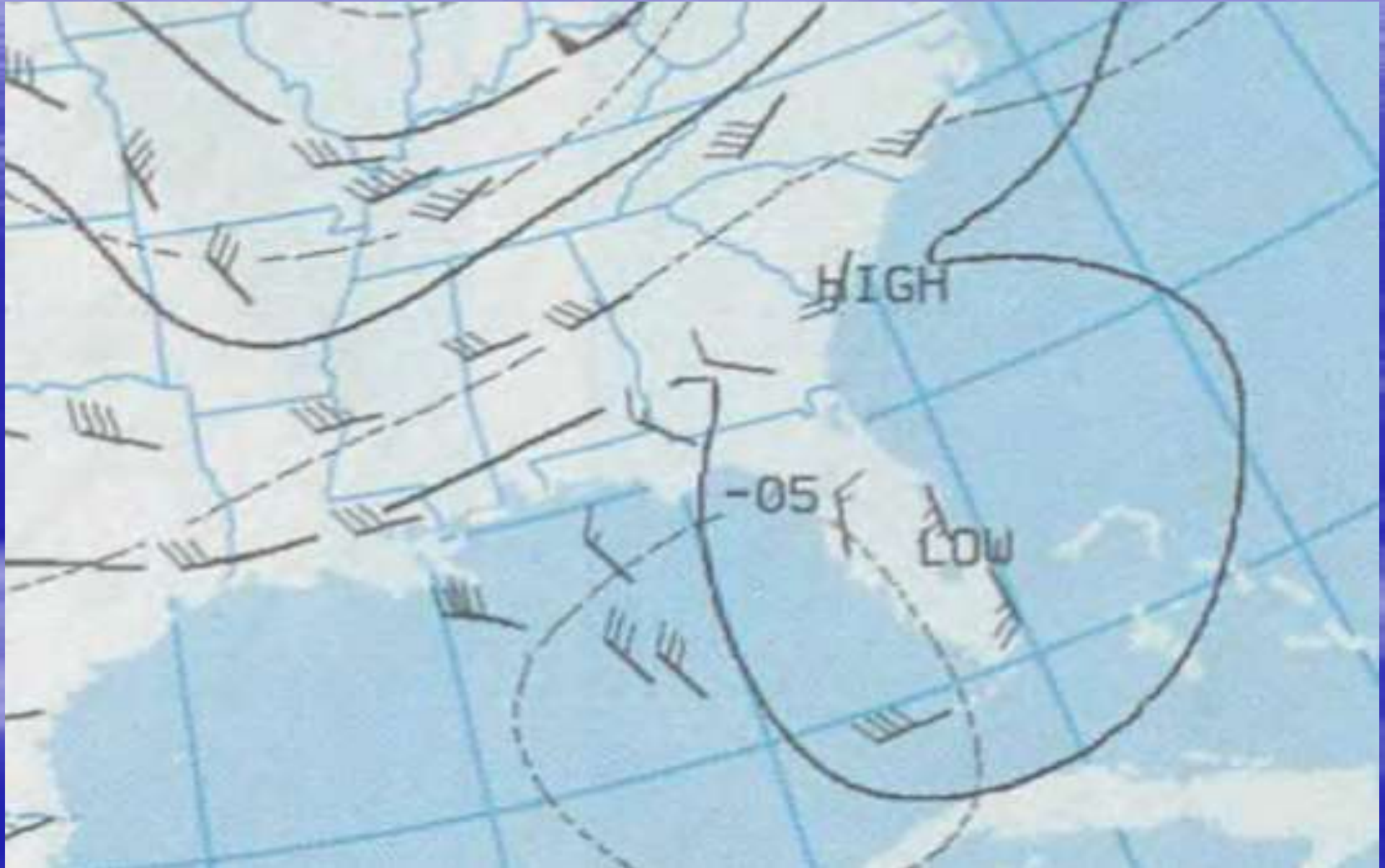
November 15th, 1994



Surface Weather Map: November 16th, 1994



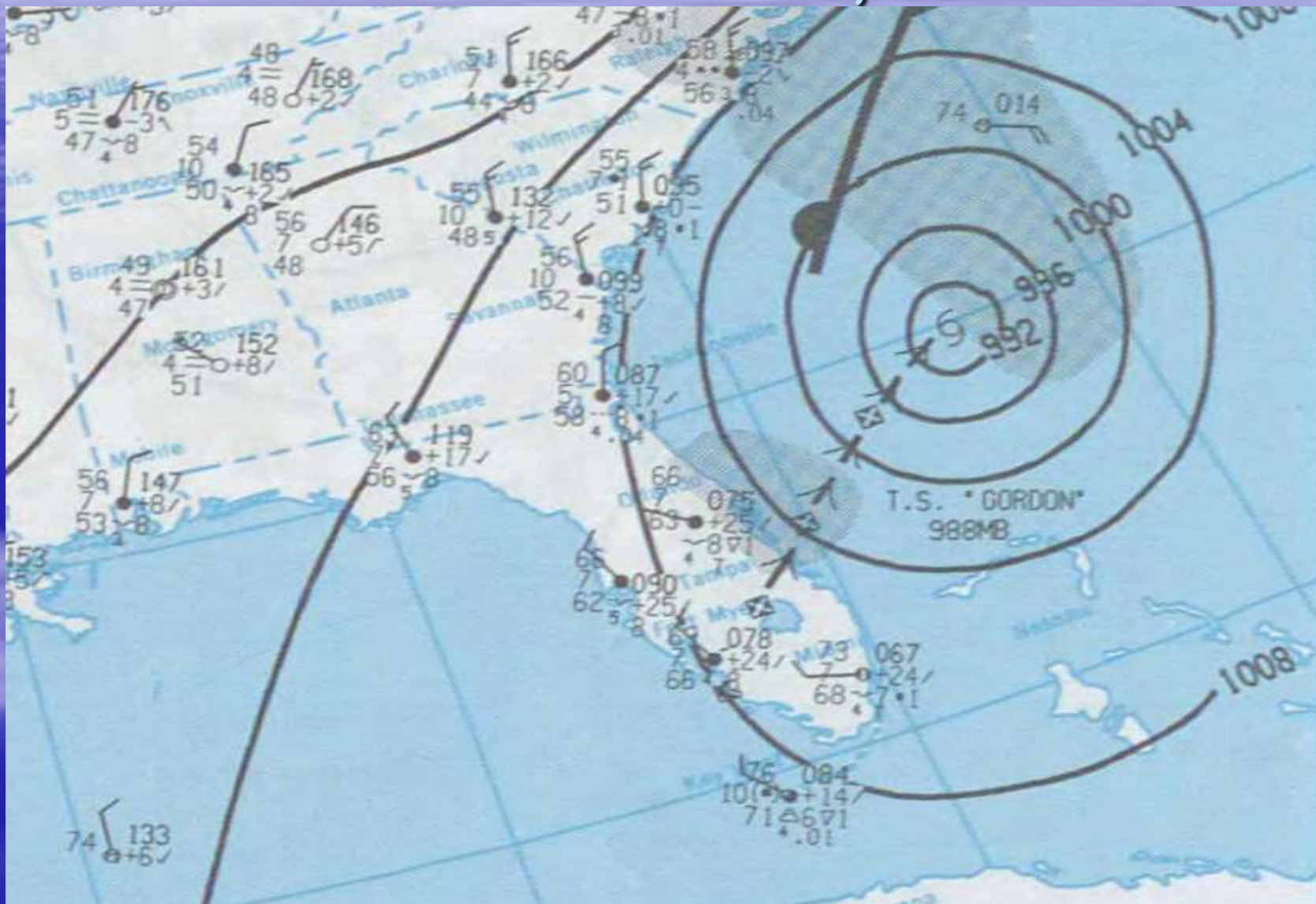
500 Millibar Map: November 16th, 1994



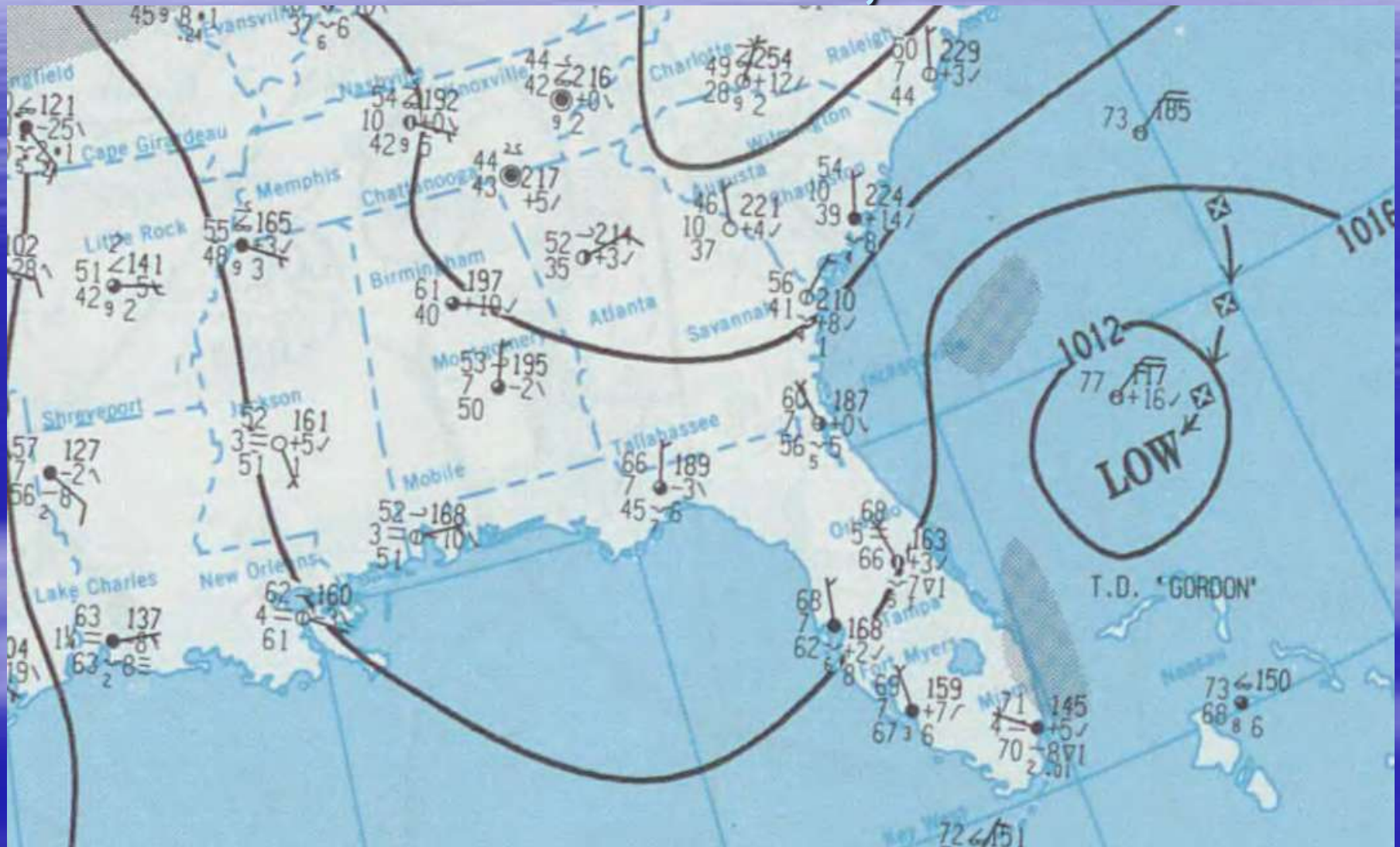
November 16th, 1994



Surface Weather Map: November 17th, 1994



Surface Weather Map: November 20th, 1994



Gordon Rainfall

- 6-9 inches widespread over south and east-central sections of Florida peninsula.
- 12-16 inch amounts over portions of southeast Florida. Agriculture community devastated.
- Two deaths in southeast Florida from cars driving into canals.
- Floods in Haiti killed an estimated 1,122 people. Deaths also occurred in Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba and Costa Rica.

Gordon Tornadoes

- Six confirmed tornadoes.
- \$10.5 million in damage.
- One F2, two F1 tornadoes.
- Worst damage in Southern Brevard County (Micco/Barefoot Bay). 1 death and 40 injuries. 62 mobile homes destroyed, 46 major damage, 181 minor damage.

Gordon Marine Impacts

- 508-foot Turkish cargo vessel dragged anchor and ran aground less than 50 yards from Ft. Lauderdale Beach.
- 37 people rescued from sinking vessels.
- Rip currents days after storm killed one person.
- Moderate to locally severe beach erosion at Florida east coast beaches. A few buildings undermined.
- Storm surge of 2 feet at Miami Beach.

Lessons Learned

- Tropical Storms can and are often just as deadly as hurricanes.
- Any tropical cyclone can produce multiple hazards. Wind isn't the only significant hazard to pay attention to.